

news

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BI-MONTHLY

REPORT

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★ In This Issue ★

Canada Supports "No Code"
AEA Amateur Ambassador Award
Update: UPS Proposal for 220 MHz.
National Police box Frequencies
Ham Jammer Ordered to Pay \$1450
Drafting Retirees to Ham Radio
Ham Complains to FCC on Call Sign
Update on Uniden HR-2510
"Hambit '88" - Call for Papers
Amateur Call Signs to March 1st.
Repeater Coordination Problems
West German Reciprocal Licensing
Mexico/U.S. Nat'l Ham Groups Meet
...and much much more!

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Canada Officially Commits to a No-Code License

The Canadian Department of Communications (DOC) has officially announced that it is committed to entry level no-code Amateur Radio. The Canadian government's position was made known to the public during a combined DOC-Amateur Radio industry meeting held February 20th.

The DOC is the regulatory agency overseeing telecommunications in Canada ...similar to our Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Its action is deemed very significant to the United States since the two nations often act in concert. Rules adopted in one nation quite frequently are adopted in the other.

While the action may have astonished American amateurs, it did not come as a surprise to Canada's two national amateur radio organizations. The Canadian Amateur Radio Federation (CARF) and Canadian Radio Relay League (CRRL) had submitted a joint position paper to the government supporting an entry level ham ticket without a Morse Code requirement during mid-1986.

The CRRL, an offshoot of the U.S. American Radio Relay League, separated from the ARRL some time ago amid charges that the League meddled in strictly Canadian affairs. The ARRL remains strongly opposed to code-free U.S. ham operation. The

combined Canadian position, jointly signed by CARF president Ronald Welsh, VE3IDW, and CRRL president, Thomas B. J. Atkins, VE3CDM, represents the attitude of the majority of Canadian amateurs.

The CARF/CRRL comments responded to the perception that ham radio is basically an old man's hobby. Apparently it is more fact than feeling. Recent Department of Communications published figures indicate that only 4.6% of all Canadian amateurs are under the age of 30. (15.1% are between 30 and 40, 20.0% between 40 and 50, 20.6% between 50 and 60, 22.2% between 60 and 70, and 17.5% are 70 years of age or over.) The current average age of all Canadian amateurs is 5560% of all Canadian amateurs are over 50 years old.

These figures are actually not much different from those of the United States. Both CARF and the CRRL recognized the need for more and younger radio amateurs ...and a continuing role for Morse code and experimentation ...although not necessarily at the entry level.

Currently Canada has three amateur radio operator classes. Amateur, Advanced and Digital. There is no entry level "Novice" license in Canada. The digital license, while a "no-code" ham ticket, can't be considered

entry level since it requires an extremely difficult written examination. It is also not very popular at all!

The two amateur organizations in Canada initially proposed Amateur Restructuring to contain three ham license classes ...or "Certificates" as they call them. They are shown in Table No. 1.

The Department of Communications, however, proposed restructuring based on four amateur radio certificates ...and added a new ham radio wrinkle, commercially manufactured transmitting equipment only for three of the four classes. See Table No. 2.

While the Canadian authorities are strongly committed to the four amateur class structure, DOC members of the Working

Group said nothing was "cast in stone" and that many details of the proposed structure were still open for discussion. These included:

- (1.) names of the various certificates;
- (2.) operating privileges;
- (3.) relative difficulty of the two technical examinations;
- (4.) requirements to use "commercial" equipment and;
- (5.) accomodation of holders of the present Amateur, Advanced Amateur and Digital Amateur certificates.

Canadian amateurs will be granted the opportunity of commenting on the government DOC proposal once the notice appears in the official government journal, the "Canada Gazette." Sources tell us that the new Canadian amateur radio restructuring will be implemented during mid-1989.

Table No. 1

CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO RESTRUCTURING AS JOINTLY PROPOSED BY CARF/CRRL:

Certificate	Proposed Requirements:	Proposed Privileges:
"B", Basic (No Code)	40 hours of basic electronic electronic theory and circuits, receiving/transmitting systems, antennas and propagation, station setup and operation, interference prevention, regulations.	All amateur modes above 30 MHz including two meters. 100 watt power limitation. Can not be the licensee of repeater or remote base station. <u>Lifetime license.</u>
"B", Basic 7 wpm code	A 7 words-per-minute Morse Code Endorsement to holders of Certificate "B".	Radiotelegraphy and radioteletype on amateur frequencies below 30 MHz and voice operation in the ten meter ham band. 250 watts input power level. Lifetime license.
"A" Advanced 12 wpm code	Written test based on 20-30 hours of study of advanced electronic theory, receiver/transmitter circuitry and antenna systems. 12 words-per-minute code requirement.	All amateur modes on all amateur bands using maximum legal power. Lifetime license.

Table No. 2

CANADIAN DOC PROPOSAL - RESTRUCTURING OF THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

Certificate	Proposed Requirements:	Proposed Privileges:
"A" (Entry level)	No code; 100 question technical examination based on 40 hours study of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1.) Basic Electronics; (2.) Amateur radio systems; 	All modes, all amateur bands above 30 MHz, maximum 250 watts input, "commercial" transmitting equipment only.

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Certificate	Proposed Requirements:	Proposed Privileges:
	(3.) Antennas and propagation; (4.) Interference and suppression; (5.) Regulations & operating procedures.	
"B" (to be used in conjunction with Certificate "A".)	5 words-per-minute code exam.	Privileges as for Certificate "A" above plus all modes, 3.5-4.0 MHz, maximum 250 watts input, "commercial" transmitting equipment only.
"C" (to be used in conjunction with Certificate "A".)	12 words-per-minute code exam.	Privileges as for Certificate "A" above plus all modes, all amateur bands below 30 MHz, maximum 250 watts input, "commercial" transmitting equipment only.
"D" (to be used in conjunction with Certificate "A" or a combination of the above certificates.)	50 question advanced technical examination.	Band and mode privileges as for other certificates held, plus the right to use maximum legal power and homebuilt transmitting equipment, and become licensees of repeater and remote base stations.

● We understand that ARRL Board Members are carefully following the progress of a no-code entry level amateur license in Canada. West Gulf ARRL Director, Jim Haynie/-WB5JBP, said that "If it passes in Canada, we would have to take a hard look at it here. There are a number of (ARRL) directors that have privately discussed a no code license. We now realize that 'Novice enhancement' is not the 'fix' that we once thought it would be." Haynie said the average age of U.S. amateurs is also well up in years, ...47.8 years.

"The Directors are certainly not ostriches with their heads in the sand. I perceive a different outlook among the Directors about the future of Amateur Radio. To me it is an exciting outlook. Tradition, of course, is an important part of ham radio ...and we must never forget that. But the future is important, too. We have a product to sell. That is our hobby ...Amateur Radio. We must get the youth of America involved. As a professional salesman, one of the first things I do is look at the competition. What are we competing against? Our competition is drugs, computers and TV."

● Two California six meter clubs have filed Petitions for Rulemaking with the FCC seeking amendment of §Part 97.85(h) to permit operation of 6-meter repeaters between 51 and 52 MHz. At present, repeater operation is prohibited from 50 to 52 MHz. Comment period closes on March 19th. George Bednekoff/KA0OCN filed a Petition for Reconsideration asking the FCC to reexamine their position regarding auxiliary operation in the 52-54 MHz segment of the 6-meter ham band. (FCC Notice, February 16 & 26, 1988)

● Perennial radio offender, Jerry E. Gastil, K6DYD, (Extra Class) of Ocean Beach, California, has pleaded guilty to intentionally jamming the San Diego FBI radio network. Gastil was fined \$1,000 and placed on three years (FCC supervised) probation. Gastil also must perform five years community service which he will do by providing and maintaining a repeater radio system for the San Diego YMCA. The sentence sets a very unusual precedence in that the FCC becomes the probation officer. Gastil, who could have received 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, still faces revocation of his amateur radio license.

UPDATE ON UPS PROPOSAL FOR 220-222

SEA, Inc., under contract to provide United Parcel Service with their narrow band ACSB radio technology, made an "ex parte" presentation on behalf of UPS to the FCC on February 19th. SEA stands for Stephens Engineering Associates. They primarily make maritime radio equipment and are lobbying the FCC hard.

Their oral presentation was before FCC Chairman Dennis Patrick, the FCC's Office of Congressional Affairs and the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET). UPS already is moving ahead with creating a 220-222 MHz data radio network even though the FCC has not yet finally ruled that it will indeed reallocate 220-222 MHz to narrow band Land Mobile business radio. Maybe they know something the rest of us don't.

ACSB (amplitude compandored side band) is not some sort of new astonishing technology. Some regard it as obsolete since it is not digital. Multiple digital voice conversations can be multiplexed on a single channel. FCC officials in high decision making capacities probably were impressed by the ACSB presentations, however. The fact remains that it is an old (circa 1970) analog single sideband system. SEA, Inc. is no doubt trying to recoup some of their investment in ACSB before it fades into insignificance.

United Parcel Service filed their comments more than six months late and ordinarily they would not be accepted. They made it crystal clear in their comments, however, that they were not the average run-of-the-mill company.

"UPS employs over 200,000 people and maintains a fleet of more than 50,000 delivery vehicles and 100 airplanes," they said. "UPS's 1987 sales volume was \$9.5 billion, up from \$6.8 billion three years earlier, an average annual growth rate of over 13%."

While industry seems to have bypassed ACSB, UPS intends to employ the technology in the 220-222 MHz band to provide up-to-the-minute "state-of-the-art" information on the delivery status of customer packages

through use of a terminal aboard every delivery vehicle.

They said amateur radio operators "can easily use other spectrum to conduct the few functions for which they currently use 220-222 MHz" ...and "concerns about potential interference with VHF television service are unrealistic and require, at most, appropriate license conditions, not rejection of the reallocation proposal."

The answer on whether or not the FCC would accept the UPS late-filed comments came on March 10th. As we anticipated, the Commission issued an Order accepting the UPS comments on General Docket 87-14.

The ARRL had filed a motion against acceptance on the grounds that besides being six months late, UPS had not given other commenters the opportunity to respond to the UPS proposal.

The Commission ruled, however, that the United Parcel proposal "provided new and relevant information and in order to develop as complete a record as possible the FCC will accept them. As requested by ARRL, the FCC will accept reply comments to the UPS filing until March 31st."

Although UPS is a very big company (and it is difficult for the FCC to ignore them) it is not a good precedent for the FCC to accept comments past the cutoff date. You can anticipate that other firms will also be making late filings with "new information."

We understand that it won't be long before the FCC will be making their final ruling on how the 220-225 MHz band will be divided up. It is starting to look like the 1½-meter ham band will be 222-225 Mhz.

As Bob Eldridge/VE7BS recently wrote us, "It is good to see you reminding people that 220-225 has never been very secure for us. If we can get exclusive allocation of 222-225 instead of an uncertain future for 220-225, it may be the best thing that could have happened." Bob has a background in international spectrum management.

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Tech. or Gen.						

March 15, 1988

"Only last night I heard a U.S. amateur complaining about a ticket received from FCC citing him for interference to a broadcasting station between 7100-7300 kHz. Perhaps this would be a good time to remind everyone of ITU Footnote 528: "The use of the band 7100-7300 kHz in Region 2 in the amateur service shall not impose constraints on the broadcasting service intended for use within Region 1 and Region 3." It is well for us to know just what rights we have and what rights we do not have."

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JAMMER ORDERED TO PAY \$1,450 FINE

On March 7th, the FCC Commissioners approved the \$1,450 fine against David G. Ackley, W4UWH, of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands for intentionally jamming another amateur station. Ackley had previously appealed the judgement levied by the FCC's Field Operations Bureau to the full Commission.

Ackley (Technician Class) had been assessed the fine for transmitting on a frequency not authorized to holders of Technician Class operator licenses; failing to give his station call sign; and maliciously causing interference to another amateur station.

On September 9, 1986, FCC engineers conducted off-the-air monitoring to confirm continued interference on the 40-meter ham band by a station in St. Thomas.

The FCC said David Ackley/W4UWH was retransmitting voice recordings of another amateur station and directing the interference to that amateur. The FCC traced the retransmissions to Ackley's residence using sophisticated direction finding techniques. Ackley's amateur station was then inspected by an FCC engineer and found capable of producing such interference.

In upholding the \$1,450 fine, the Commission said the use of DF equipment by FCC engineers is an acceptable means of establishing the source of objectionable interference ...adding, "Moreover, nothing in Ackley's application for review, or elsewhere, warranted cancellation or reduction of the forfeiture."

(Action: FCC, March 7, 1988, Report #PR-32)

DRAFTING RETIREES TO AMATEUR RADIO

The ARRL will be conducting a pilot ham recruitment campaign aimed at interesting unlicensed individuals aged 50 and over in the Tampa/St. Petersburg metropolitan area to become amateur radio operators. If successful, the test will be expanded nationwide.

Extensive data compiled and evaluated on the target district shows that approximately 25% of that area is within the 50+ age group. Media groups and senior-oriented organizations have been contacted and early indications are that they are interested in participating.

The pilot program will be conducted by ARRL affiliated clubs, volunteer examiners, registered ARRL instructors and Field leadership officials. League staff workers attending the March Orlando Hamcation visited the area and a specific plan of action has been worked out. Implementation of the program is expected to begin in about 90 days and continue through early 1989.

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HAM COMPLAINS TO FCC ON CALL SIGN Dallas repeater dispute said to be cause

Most amateur radio operators consider their call sign of major importance to them. Thomas Blaine Hamrick, previously WB5LSJ, of Irving, Texas, is no different. He did not like the one he received from Gettysburg.

A little research on his part determined that the FCC assigns call signs by mailing address rather than by the physical address of the applicant or station. The mailing address and station address provided by the applicant on FCC Form 610 need not be the same location ...or even in the same radio call district. Applicants need not even transmit from their station address.

Hamrick says he simply secured mailing addresses in Kansas City, Missouri, and Sitka, Alaska. According to the FCC, however, he initially (July 8, 1985) showed a non-existent Kansas City, Missouri, address as his station location. Hamrick maintains the address is absolutely valid and belongs to a friend of his.

Shortly after that application was granted, Hamrick filed two more contradictory applications ...virtually simultaneously. On August 18, 1985, an application was filed with the FCC indicating a mailing and station location in Texas. Two days later Hamrick filed another application indicating a mailing address and station location in Sitka, Alaska. He ultimately was issued amateur call sign: AL7HH - a ham call reserved for Alaskan mailing addresses. Hamrick apparently likes the AL7 call sign.

A complaint citing the circumstances by which Hamrick got that call sign was filed with the FCC by a Mabank, Texas, amateur. According to Hamrick, the complainant is involved in a Dallas area repeater dispute (and court fight) to which he is a party. There apparently are also other complaints filed with the FCC involving Hamrick and the North Texas Repeater Network.

In a February 16, 1988, letter, John B. Johnston/W3BE, Chief of the FCC's Washington Personal Radio Branch advised Hamrick, "Since the Radio District number in the call sign assigned to an amateur station is dependent upon the license's mailing address, you could have legitimately obtained a call sign for any district by simply renting a post office box and filing an appropriate application. Accordingly, we are not initiating a proceeding to change your call sign. However, you are cautioned that in the future you must not make any false statements to the FCC. False statements to the FCC are prohibited by Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001, and could lead to revocation and suspension of your amateur station and operator licenses." Again, Hamrick contends the Kansas City address is legitimate.

Hamrick had previously filed a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain copies of the complaints against him, but they were not released because the call sign investigation remained open. A letter (dated June 1, 1987) from Richard M. Smith, Chief of the FCC's Washington Field Operations Bureau said the data would be released "once our continuing inquiry in this matter is completed." Hamrick is applying to receive the withheld documents without delay.

He also says that he intends to name the complainant against his call sign in a countersuit charging that he has caused damages as a result of his bad faith and partially untrue complaint to the FCC about his call sign.

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of March, 1988.

Radio District:	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Adv. Tech/Gen.	Gp."C" Novice	Gp."D" Novice
0	WE0I	KE0TJ	N0IYF	KB0BXF
1	NQ1C	KC1IL	N1FMX	KA1RQK
2	WE2J	KE2ET	N2HTG	KB2FDZ
3	NN3P	KD3GT	N3GAF	KA3STB
4 (*)	AB4GN	KK4XW	N4SEK	KC4DPW
5 (*)	AA5EP	KG5HU	N5MDW	KB5FLM
6 (*)	AA6HC	KJ6DU	N6RNS	KB6WBL
7	WK7D	KF7HR	N7KOB	KB7EAU
8	WB8S	KE8QJ	N8JFK	KB8ECJ
9	NX9L	KE9IX	N9HFS	KA9AEY
N. Mariana I.	AH0E	AH0AD	KH0AJ	WH0AAH
Guam	KH2G	AH2BY	KH2DG	WH2ALL
Johnston Is.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Palmyra/Jarvis	AH5A			
Hawaii	(**)	AH6IW	NH6OL	WH6BWX
Kure Island			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8C	AH8AD	KH8AF	WH8AAW
Wake Wilkes Peale		AH9AD	KH9AD	WH9AAH
Alaska	(**)	AL7JQ	NL7NB	WL7BQP
Virgin Is.	KP2T	KP2BL	NP2CI	WP2AFY
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4OR	WP4NG	WP4HTW

NOTES: * = All 2-by-1 format call signs have been assigned in the 4th, 5th and 6th radio districts. 2-by-2 format call signs from the AA-AL prefix block now being assigned to Extra Class amateurs.

** = All Group "A" (2-by-1) format call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Group "B" (2-by-2) format call signs now being assigned Extra Class.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

UPDATE ON THE NEW UNIDEN HR-2510

An Extra Class amateur and radio dealer who wishes to remain anonymous "since I buy a lot of stuff from these people" telephoned us with some rather startling information about the new Uniden HR-2510 that we

\$4.00 \$3.50 \$3.00 plus postage
 Extra Class \$1.25 50¢ each manual.
 (Be certain shipping right! (One of each is only \$18.95 postpaid)
 charges are included.) (Complete Morse Code Course: 0-21 w.p.m.= \$29.95, ppd) PLUS Postage

wrote about in our February 15th newsletter. (See Page 9 and 10).

It seems that Uniden is entering the ham radio equipment market - even though their primary marketing thrust has been to non-amateur radio equipment outlets. The HR-2510 is a "ham" 10-meter transceiver. There is now reason to believe that many - or most - of the transceivers will be headed to the high power CB marketplace.

"It is supposed to be convertible to 11-meters," I was told. "The rigs are now in the process of being shipped to our distributor. The distributor told me that they would be sending me 11-meter modification procedures under separate cover. I will send you a copy of the conversion procedure when I get it. I don't know if the conversion procedure is coming from Uniden or my distributor. I have an idea that it will come on a plain piece of paper with no one's letterhead on it from the distributor. This information was probably put out to the underground as a sketch on a piece of paper somewhere."

A Uniden "spec sheet" said the HR-2510 was a new 10-meter 25-watt ham radio with a frequency range of 28.00 to 29.699 MHz. Transmit power upper/lower side band 25 watts PEP, 25 watts CW, 10 watt AM, 10 watt FM. Operates in 10 kHz steps with 15 channels in each of four bands.

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"NATIONAL POLICE BOX FREQUENCIES".... Plan to facilitate emergency traffic handling

William R. Gardner, W8WG, of Athens, Ohio, has filed a petition with the FCC proposing two different systems that will allow amateur radio operators during emergencies to have the capability to communicate directly with local police and state patrolmen.

While acknowledging that amateur radio operators can now talk to the police via telephone autopatch, direct radio-to-radio contact with the police and/or highway patrol would speed up communications and add a large amount of reliability by removing telephone line problems and the nonavailability of a repeater/telephone hookup from emergency communications. Gardner said that ...years ago, in many larger cities, 'police boxes'

along the highway had a direct land line to police headquarters to give people in trouble a chance to call the police and summon help. The old 'police boxes' were destroyed by vandals and were too costly to maintain.

"Changing the law to allow direct communication with the police department could put the 'power of the police box' back into the hands of the ham radio operator." Gardner suggested two methods for ham operators to communicate radio-to-radio to on-duty police officers.

(1.) **"System I:"** uses a technique called "cross-banding". The amateur station calls out on his/her radio on an amateur frequency. This call is monitored on a scanner-type radio at police headquarters on specified **"National Police Box Frequencies"** in the amateur radio band. The police respond on their police radio equipment - directly to the amateur listening to their 'police-scanner receiver'. Gardner suggested that the ARRL would need to provide "coordination material" for both the police department's radio officers and the amateur radio operators of the United States.

(2.) **"System II:"** would allow police/highway patrol departments to modify their base station equipment to use special simplex and/or repeater "Police Box Frequencies" to not only hear amateur radio calls for assistance but also to allow the police/patrol to answer these assistance calls directly on the amateur radio bands. "System II" would require an amendment to §Part 97 to allow police access to amateur radio frequencies.

Gardner suggested that the **"National Police Box Frequencies"** be established close to the edge of the ham bands. He chose 29.690 MHz (10 meters), 50.005 or 52.005 MHz (6 Meters), 147.99 MHz (2 meters) and 449.975 MHz in the amateur 440 MHz band.

"Some adjustment to the ARRL band plans for amateur radio will be needed. ...All parties are to monitor these frequencies for emergency calls. ...Amateur stations may have to relay messages to police and state patrol posts from other out-of-range amateurs originating emergency traffic."

(Filed w/FCC Secretary; February 24, 1988)

HAM REPEATER COORDINATION PROBLEMS

The dispute over who is the rightful repeater coordinator in the Kansas City area continues ...as it does in other areas as well. Both the Kansas Amateur Repeater Council, Inc. and the Mo-Kan Council of Clubs make the claim. The controversy has now turned to who the ARRL will recognize as the coordinator in its annual Repeater Directory.

Although listing in the ARRL Repeater Directory does not constitute League endorsement of a coordinator - nor FCC recognition, many amateurs (including repeater councils and coordinators) perceive that the ARRL's directory is considered by the FCC to be the wishes of the amateur community since no other such listing authority exists.

The Kansas City Repeater Council requested that the League only list the KARC coordinators in the Kansas directory and threatened to withdraw its data from the ARRL if they listed a "pirate bogus coordinator" along with KARC coordinators. They say the Mo-Kan Council clearly lacks the FCC required "substantial amateur support."

The League has apparently decided to list Mo-Kan as a bona-fide coordinator in both the state of Kansas and Missouri. A campaign is now underway in the states that make up the Mid-America Coordination Council, Inc. (Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Colorado, Wisconsin, Illinois and Oklahoma) to withdraw their data from the ARRL's Repeater Directory. MACC coordinates some 1,600 repeaters.

In addition to Kansas and Missouri, Oklahoma and Colorado are reported to be also withdrawing their listings from the ARRL repeater directory. We also heard a rumor that the CVRA-South Eastern Repeater Association, Inc. is considering publishing their own directory in conjunction with KARC. There is talk of repeater councils copyrighting their databases and pursuing legal avenues if they are published contrary to their wishes. The controversy continues and probably won't be resolved until someone or some group is given the power to make a decision regarding frequency coordinators.

WEST GERMAN RECIPROCAL LICENSING

We received a phone call from Steve Hutchins, KN6G and DA2DS in West Germany last week. It seems that the FTZ, the German equivalent to our FCC, have stopped issuing German reciprocal amateur radio licensing privileges to FCC licensed Novice operators. The West German government does not feel that the Novice test knowledge level and operating privileges are comparable to their German Class "A" license which authorizes 80, 15, (CW only) 10, 2 meter and 70cm and 23cm operation. (All modes except for 15 meters.)

The West German government also said that the Novice examination is administered by other than an official arm of the FCC. A letter Hutchins received from the FTZ mentioned that "Novice applications from foreigners or German citizens will also be treated in the same way." Steve said it took a while to figure out that sentence.

It now appears the real reason that West Germany will no longer reciprocally license FCC licensed Novice operators is because that even though Germany has their own amateur rules and testing procedures, they allow their citizens to go to any other country and obtain an amateur radio license which can be traded into the FTZ for a German ham ticket and a full privilege (not a reciprocal) call sign. Apparently many German amateurs are taking U.S. FCC tests to get German amateur radio licenses!

ITALIAN "HAMBIT-'88" - CALL FOR PAPERS

HAMBIT '88, the third international congress of amateur radio and digital techniques, which in past years was sponsored by the Italian Amateur Radio Association (ARI), will be held in Florence, Italy, on November 27, 1988.

Original work papers are invited in either Italian or English on (but not limited to) the following topics: Telecommunications; electronic circuit simulation and CAD; uses of computers in measurements; digital signal coding, decoding and processing; civil security applications and computers as aids for the handicapped. Applications may use any kind of

computer including Sinclair, Commodore, Apple, MSX or MS-DOS. A special Hambit '88 award will be presented to the author(s) of the best contribution for a tactile electronic board project simulating a video display for the blind.

Papers (not to exceed 20 pages) should be typed, double-spaced, on 8½" X 11½" paper with 1-3/8" margins on all sides, camera ready for photoreproduction. The cover page should contain only the title, full name of the author(s), affiliation, address, telephone number and a signed copyright release relinquishing all rights. A short biography and an abstract is also requested.

Two copies should arrive no later than August 31, 1988, at: Hambit '88 Coordinator; Carlo L. Ciapetti/ISCLC; Via Trieste, 36; 50139 Florence, Italy. Authors will be notified of acceptance by telegram before Sept. 30.

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1988 AEA AMATEUR AMBASSADOR AWARD

For the third consecutive year, AEA, Advanced Electronic Applications, Inc. is announcing a special award for the radio amateur who demonstrates extraordinary action in presenting the amateur service to those outside of ham radio. The AEA Amateur Ambassador Award includes a \$1,000 cash prize and round trip air fare, hotel and meals to the (September) ARRL National Convention in Portland, Oregon where the award will be presented.

The award is judged on the criteria of (1.) dedication to amateur radio; (2.) positive influence on those outside the Amateur Radio Service; and (3.) initiation of special projects or programs to promote the amateur service. Previous winners have included Mary Duffield, WA6KFA, of California and Byron Lindsey, W4BIW, of Georgia.

Nominations will be accepted until August 1, 1988, and can be made by requesting the AEA Amateur Ambassador Award nomination form from AEA. Requests go to: Advanced Electronic Applications, Amateur Ambassador Award, P.O. Box #C-2160, Lynnwood, Washington 98036.

CD-ROM STORES WORLDWIDE LOCATIONS

Jack Speer/N1BIC of Buckmaster Publishing advises that according to a 1985 FCC database, 49.7% of all licensed U.S. amateurs are 50 years of age or older. He has not run the FCC's ham listing by age in some time since it is very time consuming. All 450,000 ham records must be sorted, but Jack promised to do a ham/age run shortly. We will give you a breakdown of the ages of all U.S. amateurs by age group and license class when he sends us the information.

Buckmaster Publishing is now a full time job for Jack. He publishes some very interesting computer data - much of it ham related. One of his new products is a CD-ROM that has over one million place names collected from maps of the U.S. Geological Survey - including longitude/latitude of every place (city, county, lake, river, park, cave, beach, etc) in the world. It is primarily intended as a cross reference source for libraries, but Jack thinks it would be useful for amateurs to automatically point directional antennas based on listed coordinates.

Transceivers can be manufactured to have the capability to convert coordinates to beam headings. Almost any type of information about a received station can digitally be converted into a longitude/latitude. Jack says that the same disk also has the complete U.S. ham radio operator file. "We have all of this on line on the Richland, VA, packet station."

Now, due to the certain swelling of the ham ranks caused by a ten year license term, Jack is looking toward the day when publishing the Amateur Call Book on paper will no longer be economically possible. He already has the entire U.S. amateur data file sorted three ways (by amateur call sign, city/state location, and name) available on a total of thirty small (4" X 6") pieces of microfiche.

CD-ROM's can store mind-boggling quantities of data! To use Jack's CD-ROM's you need a Hitachi/Sony or Phillips CD-ROM player and a (640K RAM) IBM compatible running MS-DOS. Additional information available from: Buckmaster Publishing, Route 3 Box 56, Mineral, VA 23117 - Tel: 703-894-5777

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATIONS MEET Conference held between U.S. and Mexico

A joint conference of ARRL executives and the Liga Mexicana de Radio Experimentadores (LMRE) was held in South Texas on February 20th. The meeting, held at the South Padre Island Hilton, was in conjunction with the STARS hamfest at nearby Harlingen. The LMRE is the official government and IARU recognized ham radio group in Mexico.

The meeting began with a League sponsored "get acquainted" cocktail party the evening before the conference ...and a Mexican sponsored breakfast the following morning. At 9:00 a.m. the conference went into closed session.

Representing the ARRL were:

Larry E. Price/W4RA, President
David Sumner/K1ZZ, Executive Vice President
Todd Olson/K0TO, International Affairs VP
Naoki Akiyama/N1CIX, Intrnt'l Programs Mgr.
Jim Haynie/WB5JBP, West Gulf Div. Director
Fried Heyn/WA6WZO, Southwestern Div. Dir.

Representing the LMRE were:

Guillermo Nunez/XE1NJ, President
Guillermo Perez de la Garza/XE1IJA, V.P.
Juan Martorelli/XE1XM, Secretary
Enrique Ochoa/XE1EOM, Treasurer
Javier Maldonado/XE1ALH, Dir. Spec. Events
Victor Keller/XE1VIC, Dir. Public. Relations
David Paperman/WQ5Y, LMRE Rep.in the U.S.

The agenda covered nine different topics of mutual interest to both the U.S. and Mexico. A Baja meteorological station and other Mexican ham band interference was discussed ...as was amateur "contesting." Mexico does not want to "open the door" to hordes of testers. Of particular interest was the topic of reciprocal Mexican/U.S. amateur radio licensing and border repeater coordination.

In Mexico, amateur radio repeater pairs are assigned by a Mexican government agency ...the SCT (Secretary, Communications and Telecommunications.) In the United States, non-government amateur-recognized frequency coordinators approve repeater pairs. The FCC has no involvement. Improved

lines of communications were established between the Mexican government and border coordinators to reduce future conflicts and repeater interference.

LMRE representatives expressed concern that while Mexico accommodates U.S. amateurs by granting them Mexican ham radio operating privileges and call signs, the United States has not issued corresponding privileges to Mexican amateurs. This is because there are only two ways of obtaining amateur radio operating privileges in the United States. One is via a reciprocal amateur operating license or the successful completion of FCC license examinations by an alien.

Misconceptions concerning Mexican and U.S. licensing were thoroughly aired at the meeting. Under a reciprocal amateur operating agreement, a nation recognizes the amateur radio operator qualifications of another country and issues corresponding ham radio operating authority.

It is expected that the Mexican authorities will ratify the Lima (Peru) Accord in July. LMRE said that they will support the signing of that multilateral agreement which will then permit Mexico to enter into a standard reciprocal amateur radio operating agreement with the United States. Amateurs of Mexico and America will then be able to apply to the other's regulatory authority for a reciprocal amateur radio license. The arrangement, however, will not be similar to the existing Canadian/U.S. reciprocal agreement. (Canadian and American hams are automatically licensed in both countries.)

A separate meeting was held between Mexican SCT officials from Mexico City, Monterrey, Victoria and San Fernando, Mexico and FCC authorities from the Kingsville (Texas) monitoring station and the Houston FCC Field Operations office (Daniel Cantrell, Engineer-in-Charge.) Another SCT/FCC meeting will be held in El Paso shortly.

The LMRE/ARRL conference, which was organized by League West Gulf Director, Jim Haynie/WB5JBP, was termed an extreme success. Guest speaker at the STARS-fest banquet was WØORE, Astronaut Tony England.